

# FACTS CONCERNING THE SPRY INCIDENT

**Complete Refutation Is Made of  
Falsehoods in Opposi-  
tion Press.**

DETAILS OF THE AFFAIR  
ARE HEREWITH SET OUT

### Managing Editor Explains How He Was Imposed Upon by Reporter.

Concerning The Salt Lake Tribune's apology for its statement that Governor William Spry had refused to enter the First Unitarian church last Sunday until forced to do so by President Taft, and that Senator Smoot did not come to church, all The Tribune statement that it had been imposed upon by a reporter, and that the reporter had been discharged, the First Unitarian church had made a careful investigation of the facts.

The facts are these: The story concerning Governor Spry and Senator Smoot was brought to the attention of the office at a week end, therefore, it

Sunday afternoon by Frank I. Seifrit, general manager of The Tribune and Tribune Editor. He had known F. Phillips, political writer on The Tribune and to William Nelson, the editorial writer. Phillips sat down and wrote the story. The conversation with him were Nelson and Seifrit.

George E. Beere, the reporter who had been in the cover story of the church services, arrived and wrote his story, which contained no reference to the Smoot-Spy rumors. When the reporter knew about them. When Reporter Beere returned to the office from dinner, Managing Editor A. C. Smith and Tribune Editor Nelson brought him the long story concerning Governor Spy and Senator Smoot, which had been written by Phillips. Managing Editor Nelson asked the reporter to put the story into English newspaper style.

Reporter Beere demurred, saying that he had doubts about the story that it was Mr. Phillips's story, and that he did not desire to become involved in

Nothing further developed concerning it in The Tribune office until Monday afternoon, when the storm of protest became so great that the managers of the Tribune interfered. He called upon his heads-up departments and asked them to make an apology. He stated that the man or men responsible ought to have something happen to them that would make them realize that their statements of fact be carefully avoided because of danger lies in making a direct statement.

Of course, there had to be a sacrifice.

Mr. Beebe refused to give Phillips and his son agreed that there would have to be a sacrifice. It was necessary to tell the people that the man who wrote the story had died. The sacrifice was accepted. Managing Editor White, who had forced Beebe to rewrite the story from the article Phillips had written, told Beebe that he was discharged. The fact that Beebe was discharged in his possession and was able to produce it as evidence that he was not responsible, did not save him.

the way in which the reporter "was discharged."—Herald-Republican, September 30.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS BY THE  
TRIBUNE MANAGING EDITOR**

The above series of gross falsehoods was presented to its readers on the first page of the Herald-Republican in its issue of Thursday morning, Sept. 30. The paper states that the story is the result of "a careful investigation of the facts." It would be impossible to squeeze into the same space even

On last Sunday afternoon I reached the Tribune editorial rooms about 2 o'clock. Reporter Robert Beere had, on the previous night, been asked to

gauge the services at the Unitarian church, and when I entered my office which opens into the reporters' room, Beere was excitedly telling a story to W. E. Traugbber, city editor of The Tribune, at the time temporarily assigned to the telegraph desk, and to W. H. Bennett, a reporter who was assisting on the copy desk.

I was called into the reporters' room and Beere was asked to repeat the story in my presence. This he did. In a graphic manner he told of an alleged

sensational incident that had occurred at the Unitarian church. He said he had followed President Taft and his personal aide, Captain Archibald Butt, into the edifice and had seen the President seated near the pulpit in a large green wicker chair, his position making him conspicuous in the church.

in a pew in the second row from the front. After the President had been seated about ten minutes, Reported Beere said to Captain Butt: "You could see Captain Butt and "gave him the high sign." (Beere's language).

**Details Alleged Conversation.**

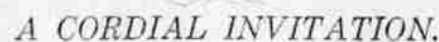
At once, declared Beere, Captain Butt arose from his seat and made his way out of the house. Beere said he followed Captain Butt from the church and saw him approach Governor Spry, who had remained on the outside, and engage him in heated conversation. Finally, according to Beere, Captain Butt and Governor Spry took hold of Governor Spry's arm in no gentle manner and said in language to this ef-

fect: "You are the Governor of this state; you have been acting as the President's escort and unless you join him inside the church you will have to quit his party altogether."

Beere emphatically elaborated upon the fact that Captain Butt's alleged angry outburst was called forth by the refusal of Governor Spry to enter the Unitarian church because it was

Reere said to me at that time, and reiterated the statement frequently and emphatically during Sunday afternoon and evening, when he was closely questioned by me, that he had been close

Continued on Page Two.



# PEARY'S SHIP NOW REACHES NEW YORK

### Captain Bartlett Talks, and Says Cook Is Not Taken Seriously.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—Commander Peary's Arctic exploration steamer Roosevelt arrived off Sandy Hook bay at 7:30 a. m. today, returning to New York from her trip to the far north. The Roosevelt rounded the point of Sandy Hook and anchored in the harbor shoe behind the Hook half a mile from the government dock. As the vessel came about, the lookouts discerned the vessel off Sandy Hook, coming slowly. Few of the vessels in the lower bay recognized the Arctic steamer as she rounded the Hook. Off the point of the Hook the Roosevelt gave three triumphant screams and ran up the Peary Arctic flag at her masthead, then the flag of the New York Yacht club at her fore, and the American ensign at her mizen.

Commodore Peary's ship arrived in the nick of time to participate in the closing ceremonies of the Hudson Bay cent celebration. She will take part in the naval parade which tomorrow will go up the Hudson as far as Newburgh.

Captain Bartlett of the Roosevelt said his vessel would lie at anchor in side of Sandy Hook until early tomorrow morning and then proceed down the Hudson river to Port Jervis second street.

Still clad in the rough clothes worn on the Arctic ship, although his fur had been laid aside, Captain Bartlett stood on his quarter deck and acted a spokesman for the party.

Captain Bartlett and the Roosevelt will accompany the naval procession as far as Newburgh tomorrow.

"There is no doubt," said Captain

Comes just in time.

Commander Peary's ship arrived in the nick of time to participate in the closing ceremonies of the Hudson-Fulton celebration. She will take part in the naval parade which tomorrow will go up the Hudson as far as Newburgh.

Captain Bartlett of the Roosevelt said his vessel would lie at anchor inside of Sandy Hook until early tomorrow morning and then proceed to an anchorage in the Hudson river off Port Jervis to receive the party.

Still clad in the rough clothes worn on the Arctic ship, although his fur had been laid aside, Captain Bartlett stood on his quarter deck and acted as spokesman for the party.

Captain Bartlett said the Roosevelt would accompany the naval procession as far as Newburgh tomorrow.

There is no doubt that Captain Bartlett thinks the stars and stripes have been planted to the north pole and no doubt that Mr. Peary was there. Peary got there because he was the only man who had the nerve to follow out the thought of land. They say he is "peaky," meaning next to God."

Thinks Cook a Joke.

Asked if it would be possible for Dr. Cook to send an expedition to recover his records left at Etah, Peary's captain said that he thought Dr. Cook was "peaky."

"Only to rescue living men would I attempt such a trip," said he.

"Did you hear that Dr. Cook has discovered the pole when you were a

"I had decided to make a trip to get there this year. 'Only to rescue living men,' I said. 'I would not attempt such a trip,'" said he.

"Did you hear that Dr. Cook has been discovered the pole when you were a 'Etah'?" he was asked.

"Yes, but nobody took the news seriously," he said.

"Had it occurred to you that Coolidge might be in danger?"

"I was wondering if Cook a man of twenty much experience in Arctic travel," was the reply. "To get himself into a little trouble."

Captain Bartlett said he saw the sledge which Dr. Cook had in his hands dash for the pole and personally saw

**Prominent Man Takes Life.**  
GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Sept. 30.—Dr. Alfred M. Webster, general secretary of the New Era association, a life insurance organization, was found lying dead today on the floor of the offices of the association with a bullet hole in his head. He had shot himself evidently with suicidal intent.

That is the "imposed" way the Tribune was "imposed" upon, and the way in which the reporter "was discharged."—Herald-Republican, September 30.

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The above series of gross falsehoods was presented to its readers on the

first page of the Herald-Republican in its issue of Thursday morning, Sept. 30. The paper states that the story is the result of "a careful investigation of the facts." It would be impossible to squeeze into the same space ever one more lie. The absolute facts in the case are these:

On last Sunday afternoon I reached the Tribune editorial rooms about 2 o'clock. Reporter Robert Beere had, on the previous night, been asked to handle the services at the Unitarian church, and when I entered my office which opens into the reporters' room, Beere was excitedly telling a story to W. E. Traugbber, city editor of The Tribune, at the time temporarily assigned to the telegraph desk, and to

W. H. Bennett, a reporter who was assisting on the copy desk.

had followed President Taft and his personal aide, Captain Archibald Butt,

into the edifice and had seen the President seated near the pulpit in a large green wicker chair, his position making him conspicuous in the church.

According to Beere's story Captain Butt was seated behind President Taft in a pew in the second row from the front. After the President had been seated about ten minutes, Reporter

Beere said, he turned his head so he could see Captain Butt and "gave him the high sign." (Beere's language.)

**Details Alleged Conversation.**

At once, declared Beere, Captain Butt arose from his seat and made his way out of the house. Beere said he

followed Captain Butt from the church and saw him approach Governor Spry, who had remained on the outside, and engage him in heated conversation. Especially according to Boone's recital

to me," Captain Butt took hold of Governor Spry's arm in no gentle manner and said in language to this effect: "You are the Governor of this state. You have been acting as the President's escort and unless you join him inside the church you will have to quit his party altogether."

Beck emphatically elaborated upon the fact that Captain Butt's alleged angry outburst was called forth by the refusal of Governor Spry to enter the

Unitarian church because it was "against his religious principles." Beere said to me at that time, and reiterated the statement frequently and emphatically during Sunday afternoon and evening, when he was closely questioned by me, that he had been close